have failed under the provisions of Prevention of Adulteration Act; and

(d) if so, the action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD VADAV): (a) No, Sir. The average C&F cost of imported wheat at present cones to Rs. 6227 per MT (approximately). The actual landed cost of the imported wheat can be calculated only after the entire quantity of imported wheat has been received.

(b) The Minimum Support Price of Wheat fixed by the Governemnt for 1996-97 and 1997-98 are Rs. 380 per quintal and Rs. 415 per quintal respectively. The FCI's economic cost for the country as a whole during 1996-97 is likely to be around Rs. 650 per quintal.

(c) No, Sir. No ship has yet sailed with imported wheat from Canada for India.

(d) Does not arise.

Logistic problems in importing wheat at Indian Ports

177. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are logistic problems in importing wheat at our ports;

(b) if so, the details of such problems faced by Government with regard to recent wheat imports; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to devise new strategies to ease logistic problems in handling of imported grains?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are certain logistic problems at our ports as, apart from wheat, other imported cargoes are also to be handled simultaneously. Apart from the port handling capacities, the areas where the wheat would be required to be moved, availability of railway wagons and FCI infrastructure have also to be taken into account. Government have arranged priority berthing of the wheat vessels at all major ports and the ports have also been advised to accord priority to wheat vessels wherever necessary. FCI will be utilising suitable major and minor ports for discharge of imported wheat cargo. A well planned handling operation is also in progress. The delay in berthing of vessels at Canadian ports due to inclement weather there is likely to lead to bunching at our ports. A Task Force with representatives of Ministries of Surface Transport, Fertilisers, Railways, STC and FCI etc. have also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Deptt. of Food Procurement & Distribution to discuss the operational problems and to seek time bound solutions. The Task Force is meeting regularly for this purpose.

Revamping of FCI

178. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp Food Corporation of India (FCI) in view of alleged corruption and inefficiency in the organisation; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the time by when it will be done?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) FCI proposes to take the following steps to minimise corruption and inefficiency in the Organisation:

(i) Increase in number of checks of its depots.

(ii) Rotation of staff at regular intervals in order to eliminate possibilities of officials developing vested interests;

(iii) Frequent physical verification of stocks of these depots.

(iv) Scanning of Files relating to Contracts being given for transportation of stocks.

(v) Identification of sensitive posts so that persons of proven honesty and ability are posted there.

(vi) Updating and computerisation of stock accounts to prevent manipulation of stock position in its district offices and Depots.

Government has allowed the Corporation to create 8 more Sub-Regional Offices to make the Corporation more effective and efficient.

Reversal of Sugar Licensing Policy

179. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reversed its sugar licensing policy from de-licensing to free licensing;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof, particularly when there is a glut of sugar in the market; and

(c) number of mills set up since the reversal of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has, however, vide Press Note dated 10.1.1997 liberalised the licensing policy guidelines and the procedure for processing the applications received for setting up of new sugar mills and expansion of existing sugar mills.

(c) It generally takes 3 to 4 years to set up a new sugar mill.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा प्राप्त गेहूं और चावल की मात्रा

180. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) अप्रैल, 1996 के दौरान भारतीय खाद्य निगम (एफ०सी०आई०) के गोदामों में गेहूं और चावल की कुल मात्रा कितनी थी और उसके बाद उत्पादकों से प्राप्त गेहूं और चावल की मात्रा कितनी है; और

(ख) अप्रैल, 1996 से अक्तूबर, 1996 तक की अवधि के दौरान सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से राज्यों को विक्रय किए गए गेहूं और चावल की कुल मात्रा कितनी थी और निगम द्वारा निर्यात के लिए खुले बाजार में और घरेलू खपत के लिए इन वस्तुओं की कितनी-कितनी मात्रा बेची गई?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) दिनांक 1.4.96 को स्थिति के अनुसार भारतीय खाद्य निगम के पास 147.10 लाख टन गेहूं और चावल की मात्रा होने का अनुमान था, जिसमें 111.45 लाख टन चावल और 35.65 लाख टन गेहूं शामिल है। अप्रैल, 1996 से जनवरी, 1997 के दौरान केन्द्रीय पूल के लिए मिल मालिकों से लेवी के रूप में वसूल और एकत्र की गई गेहूं और चावल की मात्रा 183.11 लाख टन है जिसमें 101.29 लाख टन चावल और 81.82 लाख टन गेहूं शामिल है।

(ख) अप्रैल से अक्तूबर, 1996 के दौरान सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से जारी किए गए गेहूं और चावल की मात्रा 109.63 लाख टन (अनन्तिम) है जिसमें 64.61 लाख टन चावल और 45.02 लाख टन गेहूं शामिल है। खुले बाजार में बिक्री योजना के अधीन और भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा घरेलू उपयोग और निर्यात के लिए जारी की गई चावल और गेहूं की मात्रा क्रमशः 2.70 लाख टन और 16.83 लाख टन है।

गेहूं आयात किये जाने के कारण

181. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
श्री रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने भारी मात्रा में गेहूं का आयात किया है;